

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD

FOREST TRAILS AND LANDINGS

(Acre)

CODE 655

DEFINITION

A route, travel-way or cleared area within a forest.

PURPOSE

- Provide access to forest stands for management.
- Provide access for removal and collection of forest products.
- Provide access to forested areas for recreation.
- Minimize onsite and off-site damage to resources during periods of access.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

On forested areas and areas used to access forested areas.

CRITERIA

General Criteria Applicable to All Purposes

Trails and landings will be of a size, gradient, number and location to economically and efficiently accomplish the intended purpose and expected users and equipment. They shall be configured to minimize adverse onsite and off-site impacts such as accelerated erosion, riparian zone degradation, stream channel and streambank damage, hydrology modification, other water resource damage, aesthetics or unacceptable damage to advance regeneration, residual growing stock, wildlife habitat, fragmentation, or restrict wildlife movement.

Timing and use of equipment will be

commensurate with site and soil conditions to maintain site productivity and minimize soil erosion, displacement and compaction.

Slash, debris and vegetative material left on the site after construction will not present an unacceptable fire or pest hazard or interfere with the intended purpose.

Water bars, rolling dips, timber bridges, rock plunge pools, and other drainage measures for trails shall be of sufficient size, intervals and gradient for adequate drainage and erosion control.

Trails and landings where appropriate shall be sufficiently revegetated to control erosion.

Noxious plants will not be used for revegetation. Native plants will be encouraged.

Comply with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations during the installation, operation and maintenance of this practice.

CONSIDERATIONS

Trails and landings be designed for future forest stand treatments and harvests.

Assure safe ingress and egress to site.

Locate landings and trails to preserve aesthetic qualities.

Landings and trails may be closed or reclaimed for erosion control, safety and liability, reduced maintenance costs, and restored for productive forestland

Landings and trails may be used for wildlife food and cover plantings.

Landings and trails may be utilized as firebreaks.

Conservation practice standards are reviewed periodically, and updated if needed. To obtain the current version of this standard, contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

NRCS, ALASKA

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Traditional trails that have been used for migration, trapping and trading are important cultural resources, before altering trails consider the impacts to such alterations. Environmental concerns such as threatened and endangered species of plants and animals, natural areas and wetlands also need to be considered.

Where trails are being used as travel corridors between homes in native villages and connecting villages, overhead trail clearance will be sufficient for passage when deep snows are present and sufficiently wide enough for safe two-way snowmobile travel.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Specifications for applying this practice shall be prepared for each site and recorded using approved specification sheets, job sheets, technical notes, and narrative statements in the conservation plan, or other acceptable documentation.

Specifications for revegetation of landings and trails should include species, timing and method of application.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Periodic inspections of landings and trails will be conducted and where necessary repairs will be made.

Landings and trails utilized as firebreaks will be properly maintained to accomplish this purpose.

Landings and trails may be closed for erosion control, safety and liability, and reduced maintenance costs.

Landings and trails no longer needed can be "put to bed" by removing high maintenance structures, such as culverts and bridges, and can be restored to a vegetative cover by planting and seeding.